UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/1997/L.44/Add.1
16 December 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resumed substantive session of 1997
New York, 18 December 1997
Agenda item 7 (d)

REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its sixteenth session

Administrative and programme budget implications of the draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council (see E/1997/L.62)

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

1. The present statement is submitted to inform the Economic and Social Council of the additional requirements resulting from the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its sixteenth session, as reflected in chapter III and the annex thereto of document E/1997/L.62.

2. It is recalled that a statement was already submitted to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 in document E/1997/L.44 on the programme budget implications of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, as contained in chapter I of its report (see E/1997/L.23 and Add.2. The additional requirements contained in that document were estimated at $219,000 under section 22 (Human rights) $952,800 (at full cost) under section 27E (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. The Council postponed action on these requirements until its resumed substantive session of 1997.

3. Chapter III of document E/1997/L.62 was not before the Council at that time. Upon further review of this chapter, it was considered that it contained recommendations entailing additional programme budget implications beyond those already reported, which are submitted below for the consideration of the Council.

4. Under chapter III, entitled "United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Plan of Action to strengthen the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights", the Committee proposed to strengthen the assistance available to it from within the Centre for Human Rights through the appointment of a two-member support team with specialist expertise in the range of issues dealt with by the Committee at the P-4 level for an initial period of three years.

5. The Committee also proposed to assist States in both the reporting and follow-up processes through the organization of workshops to assist government officials and training courses for the various social partners at the national level.

6. The full cost of the implementation of the proposals contained in chapter III are as follows:

	1998	1999	2000
		(United States dollars)	
1. General temporary assistance (2 staff at P-4 level)	285 600	285 600	285 600
2. Workshops to assist government officials (4 workshops per annum)	100 000	100 000	100 000
Total:	385 600	385 600	385 600

(Total for 1998-1999: $771 200)

7. It is not anticipated that the additional requirements of $771,200 for the 1998-1999 biennium could be absorbed within the provision proposed under section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for that biennium. The additional requirements for the year 2000 will be dealt with in the context of the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

8. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to a later biennium.

9. No activities could be identified, at this stage, for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 in order to accommodate the additional requirements of $771,200 referred to in paragraph 7 above.

10. Should the Economic and Social Council decide to endorse chapter III of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as reflected in document E/1997/L.62, an additional provision of $771,200 would be required over and above the resources proposed under section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

11. By the time the Council takes a decision on the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, including their programme budget implications as described in document E/1997/L.44 and the present addendum, it would be too late to submit revised estimates resulting from such decision of the Council to the General Assembly for appropriate action. In view of this situation, the Secretary-General will continue to review the matter in 1998 and address the issue of resource requirements for the implementation of the Council's decision in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 1998-1999.